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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information

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AGRICULTURE AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

SECRETARY WICKARD TOLD HIS PRESS CONFERENCE this week that American farmers can produce enough food to give the United States an adequate diet and still have enough left over to meet Great Britain's needs.

"If we have just ordinary growing weather," the Secretary said, "I think we can avoid the meatless days and milkless days of the First World War. There may be times when we may wish we had more of certain foods. It is conceivable, of course, that we might even have to cut down on consumption on one or two commodities for brief periods. But, generally speaking, unless we have a drought or some unforeseen emergency, we'll have enough for ourselves and Britain too."

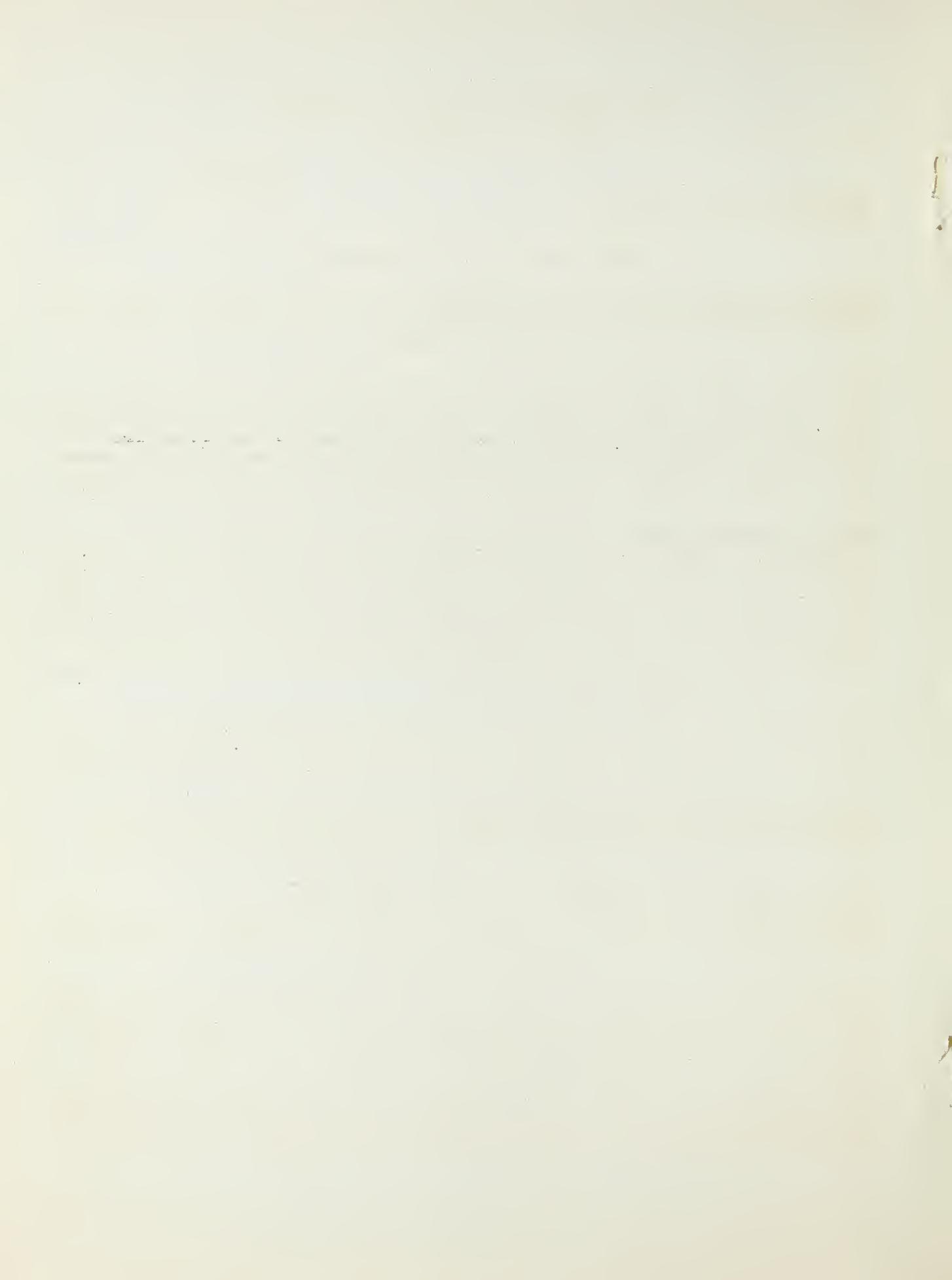
THE SAME STRATEGIC METALS that go into a plane or a battleship are used to build a tractor or a combine. The farm machinery industry uses iron, steel, copper, chromium, nickel, tin, aluminum, lead and zinc. In relation to our total production, only a very small amount of these metals go into farm machinery. With the exception of iron and steel, less than 1 percent of our total production is normally used for tractors and farm implements. If that 1 percent were not available, however, agriculture feels that the success of the recently launched food-for-defense program might be hampered.

Consequently, the newly created Office of Agricultural Defense Relations, with the aid of other bureaus, is making a careful study of the metals situation in relation to requirements for farm machinery and implements.

IN VIEW OF THE NEARNESS OF HARVEST DATE in the winter wheat States, special instructions have been forwarded to eastern railroads by the Association of American Railroads asking that grain cars be returned to the west promptly.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is appealing to its field workers to exert every effort to encourage dairymen to increase the production of milk for cheese and evaporated milk so there will be sufficient quantities of these two products for Great Britain as well as domestic consumption.

Secretary Wickard is making the appeal in letters to the Extension Service, the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, and other Department bureaus having field staffs. He points out that "while there appears to have been a satisfactory increase in total milk production, a sufficient part of the increase had not gone into the manufacture of cheese and evaporated milk." Urging that cheese production be increased by about one-third and evaporated milk production by about one-fourth, the Secretary also points out that these two outlets will offer "favorable" prices to dairymen for the next 12 months.



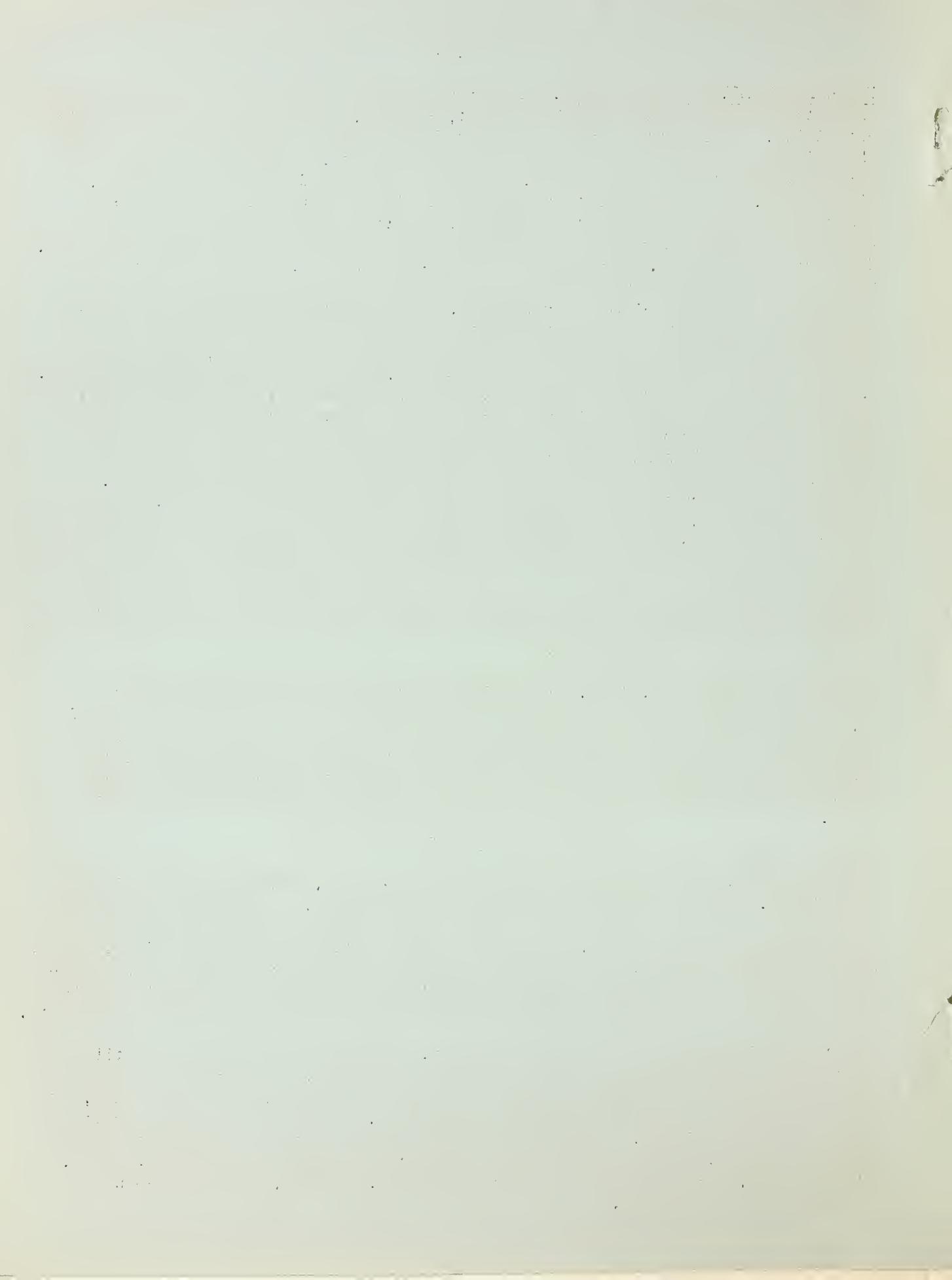
NATIONAL FORESTS SERVE DEFENSE. A year ago the War Department decided it needed the entire Choctawhatchee National Forest, Florida, as a site for aerial bombing activities. Agriculture agreed and last June Congress sanctioned the transfer, which involved 320,236 acres of national-forest land. Shortly thereafter the War Department found it needed 64,328 acres of the De Soto National Forest, Mississippi, as an addition to Camp Shelby. Again Agriculture agreed, and Congress in July sanctioned the transfer. On its heels was the selection by the War Department of an area of 68,245 acres in the Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, of which 19,534 acres is national-forest land. Formal transfer of this area has not yet occurred but the War Department made it clear that its occupancy and control would be permanent. Other instances which do not contemplate a permanent change in the status of national-forest lands, but their indefinite occupancy for national-defense purposes, include 110,000 acres in the Los Padres National Forest, California; 38,615 acres in the Vernon Division, 5,389 acres in the Catahoula Division, and 15,558 acres in the Evangeline Division of the Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana; 7 acres in the Caribbean National Forest, Puerto Rico; a portion of the Enoree Division of the Sumter National Forest, South Carolina; a portion of the Tongass National Forest, Alaska, for airport; and 640 acres in the Chugach National Forest, Alaska, to the CAA for an airport to be used for defense purposes when required. Also general permission has been granted to the War Department to use all the national forests in the Southern Region for temporary maneuver purposes. Additional areas are now being considered by the War Department including an area of approximately 100,000 acres tentatively selected in the Gallatin and Targhee National Forests in Montana and Idaho for use as a mountain maneuver area. Meanwhile another defense agency is manifesting an active interest in a part of the Croatan National Forest, North Carolina.

By letter of August 29, 1940, all Regional Forester and Forest Experiment Station Directors of the Forest Service were advised that if consideration of all factors indicated need for the use of national-forest lands for defense activities, and no other equivalent area was or could be made available, the Forest Service would in all practicable ways assist the defense agencies in their occupancy of the national-forest lands they deemed essential to their needs.

#### SUMMARY OF FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS

UNITED KINGDOM: The Board of Trade on Sunday, June 1, announced the rationing of clothing, cloth and footwear, effective immediately. No advance notice had been given in order to prevent hoarding. Apart from some brisk illegal trade in the Sunday street markets, and some alleged leakages in London, this objective was apparently achieved. The newspapers carried the Board of Trade's announcement in advertisement form, emphasizing that the scheme was designed to insure "fair shares" rather than to reduce the supply of clothing available to consumers.

Each person is allotted 66 coupons per year. The coupons represent quantities and have no relation to the value of clothing articles. No purchases can be made without coupons but purchasers can buy what they like, where they wish, with the coupons. Traffic in coupons is illegal. Clothing for babies under 4 years is not rationed. Children's clothes are rated low in coupons because quickly outgrown. Blitzed households will receive replacement coupons. Hats, mending wools, thread, certain workers' overalls, notions, and second-hand articles are not rationed.



As an indication of what the scheme means in effect, it has been estimated that a family living on between 3 and 4 pounds sterling per week will find their coupons sufficient to purchase about what they are accustomed to, while the better off will be able to purchase less than heretofore. Retailers' replacement stocks will depend on the number of coupons turned in. The method of distributing supplies to retailers on the basis of the coupons they take in is expected to stimulate retail competition and hence to encourage low prices, while it should also avoid some of the difficulties encountered in food rationing which resulted from shifts in population.

The Ministry of Information announced that an economic agreement had been concluded with French Equatorial Africa under which the British Government undertakes to purchase the total output of palm kernels, palm oil, peanuts, and beniseed. The Government also undertakes to purchase a considerable proportion of the coffee crop and very large quantities of timber. In addition, it will assure the sale of commercially salable cotton up to 20,000 tons.

GERMANY: According to Der Deutsche Volkswirt, German hog numbers have been reduced by from 15 to 20 percent since the beginning of the war.

The Secretary of the Association for the Control of the Restaurant and Hotel Trade issued a regulation limiting meat dishes served by restaurants to 100 grams each.

FINLAND: Food rations were drastically reduced on June 1. Supplies of grain available for the next four and one-half months, before the new harvest, are placed at 75 million kilograms, while the monthly consumption at the former rations is estimated at 43 million kilograms. The nonarrival of 70 million kilograms of grain from Russia under the trade agreement with that country has made a reduction in the bread ration imperative.

MANCHURIA: In addition to placing emphasis on increased production of beans, wheat, rice and sugar beets, a new Five Year Plan for Manchuria, which may be adopted in the autumn, involves the removal intact of the surplus populations of villages in Japan to locations in Manchuria.

